

Appl. No. 10/517,538  
Amendment and/or Reply  
to the Office Action of 1 December 2005

Page 8 of 9

### **3. REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

Unless indicated otherwise, claims are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language.

#### **I. Objections to the Drawings**

Applicants gratefully note the objections to the drawings provided in the Office Action. The drawings will be made formal and suitably compliant with Rule 121(d) and will be filed in due course.

#### **II. Objections to the Specification**

In response to the objections to the specification, Applicants provide an abstract to replace the previously filed abstract.

#### **III. Objections to the Claims**

The objections to claims 5-9 and 14-20 for improper multiple dependency have been addressed and are believed to be fully overcome.

#### **IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103**

Claims 1-4 and 10-13 were rejected under one of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and 103(a). Claims 5 and 14, which depended from claims 1 and 10 ultimately and respectively, were not rejected based on applied art. Rather these claims were objected to as noted above. Accordingly, the present amendment renders all pending claims allowable.

#### **V. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims,

Atty. Docket No. FR020701


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**Page 9 of 9**

and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0238 for any additional fees, including, but not limited to, the fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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May 1, 2006  
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Atty. Docket No. **FR020701**